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**EXFO**



April 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents

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U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Examining Operator

Applicant: William S. Gornall, et. al.

Application No: 10/069,556

Filed: 02/22/2002

For: Laser Wavelength Meter

Examiner: Patrick J. Connolly

Art Unit: 2877

Response To Action Dated 02/17/2004

Please amend claims (claims 12 and 23 are combined and claim 23 is cancelled, claim 17 is presented in independent form) as indicated on the attached set of amended claims.

Please reconsider the rejection of claims 25 and 26 as anticipated by Burkert 4,383,762. Burkert does not anticipate since only one beam is propagated. This is the incoming radiation S which is split into S1 and S2. There is only one beam. The term "two-beam interferometer" used by Burkert is a misnomer in that it relates to the splitting of one incident beam along two paths within the interferometer. Since only one beam is involved, Burkert cannot perform wavelength measurement. Burkert being interested only in Fourier spectroscopy. In as much as claims 25 and 26 call for means for

propagating "said beams" (the beam of unknown wavelength and the reference beam), these claims distinguish over the reference: allowance is urged.

As to claim 12 and claims 13–16 and 22–24 which are dependent thereon, these claims are not obvious over Burkert and Troeger 3,807,029 since these references do not suggest wavelength measurement wherein a reference beam and beam of unknown wavelength must be handled conjointly to obtain the wavelength of the unknown beam. The optics whereby a reference and input beam traverse the path, undergoing the same change in path length with the oscillation of the bar in interfering relationship (as claimed in claim 12) and the claims dependent thereon would not be apparent from Burkert. The dependent claims on claim 12 refer to optical elements and geometry further distinguishing the invention over the references. Allowance of claims 12–16, 22–24 is respectfully urged.

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Claim 1–11 stand allowed. Claims 17–21 are allowed in that claim 17 is placed in independent form.

An early notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted

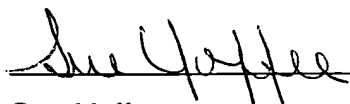


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It is hereby certified that this document and the accompanying set of amended claims were mailed first class mail to the above address on April 1, 2004 by the undersigned.



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